IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) Method for the management of subscriber functions, said method being used to manage subscriber functions in a telecommunication network (1), said subscriber functions being stored in records (2), ~~characterised in that~~ the method comprising the steps of:

~~- subscriber functions consistent with default function sets are stored in default records (2^{00}, 2^{01},..., 2^{0N});~~

~~the subscriber functions for each default subscriber are read from the default record (2^{00}, 2^{01},..., 2^{0N}) concerned;~~

~~- the subscriber functions for each special subscriber are stored in a subscriber-specific record (2^{1}, 2^{2},..., 2^{N}) for the subscriber concerned; and~~

~~the subscriber functions for each special subscriber are read from the subscriber-specific record (2^{1}, 2^{2},..., 2^{N}) for the subscriber concerned~~

- defining one or more default function sets, each default function set comprising one or more subscriber functions of a digital telephone exchange defined as default functions;

- partitioning subscribers of said digital telephone exchange into default subscribers and special subscribers, said default subscribers being those subscribers whose subscriber functions correspond to one of said default function sets, and said

special subscribers being those subscribers whose subscriber functions do not correspond to any of said default function sets;

- storing subscriber functions consistent with said default function sets in default records (2^{00}, 2^{01}, ..., 2^{0N}), each default record being common to all the default subscribers whose subscriber functions correspond to the subscriber functions in the default record concerned;

- storing subscriber functions for each special subscriber in subscriber-specific records (2^1 2^2, ..., 2^N), each subscriber-specific record being specific to the special subscriber concerned;

- reading the subscriber functions for each default subscriber from the default record (2^{00}, 2^{01}, ..., 2^{0N}) concerned; and

- reading the subscriber functions for each special subscriber from the subscriber-specific record (2^1, 2^2, ..., 2^N) for the subscriber concerned,

wherein modification to the default record most of the subscribers can be dealth with by apply.

2. (Original) Method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that data indicating whether the subscriber is a default subscriber or a special subscriber is provided in conjunction with the telephone number of the subscriber.

3. (Previously Presented) Method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that

- when changes are made in the subscriber functions for a special subscriber, a check is performed to establish whether the changed functions correspond to any one of the default function sets; and

- if the changed functions correspond to one of the default function sets, then the special subscriber concerned is redefined as a default subscriber.

4. (Previously Presented) Method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that in that the subscriber functions for a special subscriber are not stored in a subscriber specific record (2^1, 2^2,..., 2^N) until one of said functions is activated for use.

5. (Previously Presented) Method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the default definitions are subscriber type-specific.

6. (Original) System for the management of subscriber functions, said system comprising a telecommunication network (1), the subscriber functions for subscribers in said telecommunication network being managed, and said system further comprising a number of records (2), in which said subscriber functions are stored, characterized in that

- the system comprises one or more default records (2^{00}, 2^{01},..., 2^{0N}), in which subscriber functions consistent with default function sets are stored and from which the subscriber functions for default subscribers are read;

- the system comprises one or more subscriber-specific records (2^1, 2^2,..., 2^N), in which the subscriber functions for each special subscriber are stored and from which they are read.

7. (Original) System as defined in claim 6 characterized in that the system comprises means (1) by which data indicating whether the subscriber is a default subscriber or a special subscriber is provided in conjunction with the telephone number of the subscriber.

8. (Previously Presented) System as defined in claim 6, characterized in that system comprises means (1) by which, when the subscriber functions for a special subscriber are changed, a check is performed to establish whether the changed functions correspond to any one of the default function sets and by which a special subscriber is redefined as a default subscriber if the changed functions correspond to one of the default function sets.

9. (Previously Presented) Method as defined in claim 6, characterized in that in that the subscriber functions for a special subscriber are not stored in a subscriber specific record (2^1, 2^2,..., 2^N) until one of the functions in question is activated for use.

10. (Previously Presented) System as defined in claim 6, characterized in that the default definitions are subscriber type-specific.